

## MACLAY MAY FIGHT REMOVAL.

### Laborer-Historian Ready to Engage Counsel.

#### AWAITING COMMISSION'S RESPONSE.

If Civil Service Authorities Support His Contention He Will Contest President's Right to Order His Discharge.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Edgar S. MacLay, the laborer-historian who has figured in the Schley controversy, was playing the role of Santa Claus last night at his home, 1224 Hancock street, Brooklyn, when informed that President Roosevelt had removed him from his position in the Navy Yard. When told of this action, he said:

"Although it is not unexpected I was not sure that President Roosevelt would go to such an extreme. I have not yet been notified of my removal, but if it is so, President Roosevelt has violated one of the very principles he advocated so strongly. The purity of the Civil Service is at stake when one man, no matter how high he may be in official life, can remove an employee classified under the Civil Service and give no reason for it.

"At present I do not know what I will do and until I hear from the Civil Service Commission I cannot say what my plans will be.

Two Questions Asked.

"I sent a letter to that body today, asking them two questions. One of them is: 'Can the President of the United States demand the resignation of a civil service employee?'

"The second is: 'If so, can the President discharge an employee without a hearing?'

"Of course I will have to abide by the answer I receive from Washington. The Civil Service Commission is appointed by the President and can be removed by him. To Report as Usual.

"In any event I will go to my desk Thursday morning in the Storekeeper's Department at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, as usual. If I am notified by Admiral Baker that I have been dismissed I will simply walk out, but I will demand to know the reason of my discharge.

"I do not know that I have violated any rule, and if I have I would like to be told of it. Of course I will not regret the loss of the position. I will continue with my historical work after my removal from the Navy Yard just as before.

Anxious to Test Case.

Later, in speaking to a friend, Mr. MacLay said:

"The news of my discharge is a surprise. I really thought that the matter would go over until after the holidays at least.

"With my present understanding of the Civil Service law, I am of the opinion that the President has gone beyond his powers.

"To me it seems that the case involves all employees under the head of the National Civil Service. I shall write a collection of the Civil Service and, if the reply is favorable, I will engage counsel and fight the case.

"This question has never before been settled."

## KLINGLER'S DEATH ACCIDENTAL.

### Coroner to Issue Such Certificate and Send Body to Schenectady.

The efforts of the police to identify the body of the woman who was found dead in a room with a male companion at the Hotel Lyons, 306 Pennsylvania Avenue northwest, have so far proved unavailing. Her companion's body, which was identified as that of George A. Klingler, will be shipped to Schenectady, N. Y., where a mother, sister, and brother reside.

Coroner Nevitt, who is investigating the case, doubts the further facts are brought to his attention he will issue a certificate of death by accidental asphyxiation in both cases. The bodies now lie at the morgue, but that of the man will probably be removed this afternoon to the undertaking establishment of J. William Lee, where it will be prepared for shipment to the deceased's former home.

Letters found among his effects signed "Your Sister Lena" and "Brother Will" indicated that he was expecting to leave Washington about this time to return to the old home to live with his relatives. A place had been reserved for him, and he was to have gone to work in Schenectady on the first of the new year.

Captain Boardman received a telegram from Klingler's brother this morning, asking that the body be embalmed and shipped to Schenectady.

## PREHISTORIC CAVE FOUND.

### Interesting Discovery Made Upon a Farm in Wisconsin.

LACROSSE, Wis., Dec. 25.—A cave, believed, by its crude drawings, trinkets, and pottery, to be the work of cave dwellers or prehistoric races of people, has been discovered on the farm of David Samuels, a few miles east of Lacrosse. The cave is a natural formation of solid white sandstone, and upon its walls pictures and hieroglyphic characters of an ancient type were found.

There are four distinct layers of ashes, indicating four occupancies.

The weapons are of bone, and crudely formed.

It is believed that the last occupancy was not less than 470 years ago, and that between this and the first there was an intermediate lapse of time, probably fifteen centuries.

Shooting in Cumberland, Md.

CUMBERLAND, Md., Dec. 25.—William Cunningham was probably fatally shot here last night by John Hopcraft, a saloonkeeper, in a dispute over twenty-five cents. It is alleged that Cunningham claimed change from the proprietor, and Hopcraft refused to give it. Cunningham, it is said, ran into the street. John Richey held Hopcraft who had a revolver. Hopcraft escaped from Richey's grasp and went for Cunningham, shooting him.

Launching of Battleship Missouri.

Saturday morning, December 28, at Newport News, Va. New York and Washington steamers leaving for Norfolk, Friday, 6:30 p. m. See ad page 7.

## FEMALE SANTA CLAUS BURNED.

### Horrible Accident in a New York Hospital.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Madeline Sammons, a nurse in the Laura Franklin Free Hospital for Children, while acting the part of Santa Claus before the children last night, got too near a tiny candle, and her dress of cotton batting caught fire.

She was horrible burned, and died this morning.

The sick children whom the nurse was entertaining were thrown into a panic. Blankets were thrown about the burning woman, but the action was too late to save her life.

## RALLYING IN HIS LAST FIGHT.

### General Sewell's Great Vitality Surprises His Physicians.

CAMDEN, N. J., Dec. 25.—The wonderful vitality of United States Senator William J. Sewell, who is lying critically ill at his home, on Cooper Street, Camden, is surprising his physicians. Three or four times he has had sinking spells, when it was believed that the end was near, but he rallied.

Yesterday afternoon the Senator had another attack which weakened him considerably, but he rallied and Dr. H. Genet Taylor said there was no occasion for alarm regarding his condition.

## NEW YORK FINDS THIS XMAS HAPPY

### GENEROUS GIVING THE ORDER.

Thousands of Dollars Expended to Make the Day Memorable to the City's Unfortunates.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Christmas Day opened with a gleam of sunshine and with every promise of rain before the close of the day.

The Christmas trees were well decorated, even in the tenement districts, the newspapers and philanthropists contributing in many instances.

Newspaper Fund \$300,000.

One newspaper alone provided \$300,000 to the poor children from a fund contributed by the public, besides providing many a hearty meal for overworked mothers who had no hope of making the day happy.

Another newspaper provided for many poor, from a public fund.

Christmas services were held in many of the churches.

Helen Gould's Philanthropy.

Miss Helen Gould provided for many of the children in the hospitals, while the Salvation Army gave a big feast for the poor in one of the big halls of the city. Other societies also provided, so that New York's poor were well taken care of.

Wall Street folk have reason to be happy today. Nearly everyone in the big banking and brokerage district received a present.

A \$50,000 Token.

The largest, probably, was a check for \$50,000 given to Fred P. Olcott, President of the Central Trust Company, by the directors of that company.

John P. Rockefeller gave gifts to all his employees. The amounts were treated as confidential.

The New York Stock Exchange distributed \$150,000 among the 550 clerks, messengers, and doorknockers.

The Coffee Exchange gave its employees \$1,000.

## I'VE KILLED MY WIFE," HE SAID.

### NEW YORKER SURPRISES OFFICER

Investigation Shows the Declaration to Be True—Unfaithfulness Inspired the Murder.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—John Bell rushed up to a policeman at the corner of Broadway and Saratoga Avenue, Brooklyn, this morning and shouted:

"I have killed my wife."

When the officer went to the scene he found the body of Mrs. Bell with a bullet hole in her head.

There were evidences of a terrible struggle.

Bell says he killed his wife because he believed her untrue.

## FIRE ENGINE OVERTURNED.

### Responding to a Call When Accident Occurred.

While responding to an alarm of fire from box 243 shortly before midnight last night, in trying to avoid a collision with a passing vehicle, which had disregarded the warning bell, No. 7 engine ran against the curb at Fourteenth and R Streets northwest and was upset. No one was injured and but slight damage was done to the engine.

The fire proved to be a small one, involving only \$25 damage. It started from unknown origin at 1435 Q Street northwest, and was confined to the room in which it was discovered. The building is owned by E. F. Brady and occupied by J. A. Cooper.

## A VICTIM OF APOPLEXY.

### J. H. Turner Dies Suddenly Without Medical Aid.

John H. Turner died suddenly of apoplexy last night. He was forty-five years of age and lived at 226 A Street southeast. The Coroner was notified and will give a certificate of death from natural causes.

Mr. Turner was out walking about 8 o'clock. Feeling faint, he entered the drug store at Second Street and Pennsylvania Avenue southeast, where he became unconscious before medical aid could reach him.

The police of the Fifth precinct were notified and, placing the man in the patrol wagon, hurried him to his home, where he died shortly afterward.

Improved Service West, E. & O. R. H.

Under recent change of schedule train leaving Washington 6:30 p. m. (daily) arrives in Chicago in time to connect with "crack" trains of Western roads, including "Overland Limited" and "California Limited," giving quick service to all Pacific Coast and intermediate points. Also splendid service and good connections to points east of Chicago.

Improved Florida Service

via Seaboard Air Line Railway, commencing January 14, The Florida and Metropolitan Limited, composed of Pullman drawing room sleepers, compartment cars, dining cars and observation car, will run daily to St. Augustine without change. Also 1435 New York Avenue.

## BELIEVE END OF GEN. ALGER NEAR.

### Bad Symptoms Have Appeared in His Case.

#### EXTREME APPREHENSION TODAY

Detroit Physicians Think That the Ex-Secretary Cannot Live Much Longer—Patient Sustained by Liquid Injections.

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 25.—The first bad symptoms in Gen. Russell A. Alger's case since the operation appeared yesterday afternoon. He vomited and his temperature and pulse increased.

On consultation, the doctors decided to allow him nothing to eat for at least twenty-four hours.

During the night his temperature receded. This morning it was 99.9, with the pulse 72.

"Today is a day of extreme apprehension," said Dr. Jennings, "and General Alger's condition must remain critical for a week longer."

The general himself is cheerful, and the thought that he may not recover never enters his head.

The seat of operation was in such close proximity to the stomach that it is inflamed, and is not yet in a condition to receive nourishment. Up to this time he has been sustained by liquid injections.

In view of the alarming symptoms, all the daily papers have in type biographies of the general, with illustrations.

The feeling in newspaper offices is that the end cannot be very far off.

## MRS. MCKINLEY IN IMPROVED HEALTH.

### BETTER NOW THAN FOR YEARS.

Has Taken Much Interest in Recent Visits by Relatives and Friends of Long Standing.

CANTON, Ohio, Dec. 25.—Mrs. McKinley, in the opinion of her Canton relatives, is in better condition today than she has been for a number of years. And what pleases them still more is their observation that her mental condition is better than at any time since the death of her husband.

During the past few weeks she has been visited by a number of relatives and friends of long standing, and in these visits she showed real interest and enjoyment.

The weather for a month or two has prevented the outdoor exercises that furnished her diversion during the early days of her bereavement, but the calls of old friends have largely compensated for the change.

Mrs. McKinley has sent Christmas remembrances to many friends and has received many remembrances. She has decided to spend all the day at the old home.

## THE QUEEN SENDS GIFTS.

Children of the Incurable Hospital the Recipients.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—The condition of Queen Alexandra continues to improve today.

Notwithstanding her indisposition her Majesty sent a present to each patient in the Cheyne Hospital for Incurable Children. She personally addressed each parcel "for my little children of Cheyne Hospital."

There was a private service in the chapel of Marlborough House today.

The King and Princess Victoria were present.

## DESPERATE MEASURE PREVENTS A WRECK.

### AN ENGINEER'S COOL COURAGE.

By Opening Throttle Wide He Plows Through an Obstructing Herd of Cattle to Safety.

KANSAS, Ill., Dec. 25.—The fast train of the Big Four system, the Southwest Limited, plunged through a herd of 200 cattle yesterday, but through the presence of mind of the engineer, William White, escaped what appeared to be certain destruction.

Train Filled With Passengers.

The train consisted of eight coaches, all filled with holiday passengers, and was going at sixty miles an hour when it started on the down grade at Baber's stock farm. Looking ahead, White was horrified to see a great herd of cattle just starting across the track.

To stop the train was out of the question, and to slow up meant an increased hazard, and that his only hope lay in getting enough speed to send his train through the mass. He threw the throttle wide open and the train struck the herd at terrific speed.

Cattle Whirled in Air.

The engine plowed through the cattle, throwing the animals high in the air. The pilot of the locomotive was torn off, and the train for its entire length was splashed with blood. The great speed attained prevented the train from leaving the track, and no one suffered from the peculiar accident but the unfortunate cattle.

Had White not acted promptly there must have been great loss of life, for the whole train might have been destroyed.

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Confagration in New York Today Almost Proves Fatal.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—One fireman was overcome and about a dozen others had narrow escapes from death this morning in a two-alarm fire at Dover and Water Streets, which called five fire companies to the fifth floor, occupied by the Bell Manufacturing Company.

Smoke and flames surrounded the firemen when they got to the fire escape. Peter Cahill was overcome and had to be sent to the hospital.

A defective fuse caused the blaze, which caused \$5,000 damage. Policeman Donar discovered it.

## VENEZUELAN INTERNAL CRISIS.

### Castro May Be Deposed If Expected Cargo of Arms Is Land.

To a large extent the fate of the existing government in Venezuela headed by President Castro depends upon the success or failure of a British steamer to land its cargo. Ban Righ is the name of the vessel, and its cargo consists of guns and ammunition intended for the use of the revolutionary party under General Luciano Mendoza, who, with a number of influential men, rebelled Thursday against President Castro.

This morning's despatches from Port au Prince, on the island of Martinique, announce the arrival there of the Ban Righ and that Senor Matos, one of the revolutionary leaders, has gone thither to meet her. Castro, however, has been informed by his consuls in Europe to the effect that she has been carrying arms for the rebels and his officials at every Venezuelan port have been warned to watch out for her arrival and seize her if possible.

If she can elude the vigilance of these officials and land her cargo and get it distributed among the insurgents the result will probably be the overthrow of President Castro's Government. There are men enough ready to revolt, but they need arms and that is why the fate of the Ban Righ's cargo is of so much importance just now.

In other respects the South American situation is not much changed today. Germany, it is reported, is gathering quite a fleet to support her demands upon Venezuela. The German cruiser Falke has reached Porto Cabello; the Vinto sailed South from Newport News a week ago; and the Moltke, the Stein, and the Gelaers are already in South American waters.

On the other hand, the United States is well prepared to look after interests there. Three battleships, the Kearsarge, Alabama, and Massachusetts are at Havana; the Buffalo is at Port au Spain; the Trinidad is at San Juan; the Marietta at Colon; the Indiana at Guantanamo; the Essex at St. Kitts, and the Monongahela at the United States.

The feeling in newspaper offices is that the end cannot be very far off.

## MEN GET INCREASED PAY.

### Philadelphia Traction Company Surprises Its Employees.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 25.—An increase in wages is the Christmas surprise furnished by the Union Traction Company to every conductor and motorman in its employ.

The company has posted this bulletin: "The rate of wages of the motormen and conductors of this company will be nine cents per hour, to take effect on January 1, 1902."

JOHN B. PARSONS, "President."

The announcement came as a complete surprise to the men. Recently there was much agitation among the men, a number of whom advocated a strike for higher wages. A general meeting of employees was held and they voted against a strike.

The increase in wages will cost the Union Traction Company an additional \$300,000 a year and will affect nearly 5,000 men.

## FOUR PEOPLE PERISH ON A BURNING BOAT.

### DISASTER AT MEMPHIS TODAY.

Mississippi River Steamer, With Fifteen Passengers Aboard, Consumed—Three Cremated and One Drowned.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 25.—Fire broke out on the boiler deck of the steamer Sun, owned by Phillips & Brener of this city, and lying between Memphis and Fulton in the harbor here at an early hour this morning.

She was burned to the water's edge, being a complete loss with the exception of the hull.

There were fifteen passengers on board. Three of these were burned to death, and another, an infant, is missing.

The remains were so charred in one instance that identification was possible only through the jewelry worn. The boat was valued at \$10,000; insurance \$5,000.

The dead are:

D. M. REINEX and WIFE, of Old River, Ark.

MRS. G. M. TIMBS, Richardson's Landing, Tenn.

The baby of Mrs. Timbs is missing, and is supposed to have been drowned.

## CAPTAIN LORD STILL MISSING.

Police Expect Results When Descriptive Circulars Are Distributed.

The detectives who are working on the case have but little hope of getting information concerning the whereabouts of Capt. T. W. Lord until the circulars which are being prepared are distributed.

There has been some delay in having these circulars finished, owing to the inability to have the printing done this Christmas Day. As soon as they are received from the printer they will be hurried out into the surrounding country and as widely circulated as possible.

The circular will be most explicit in the description of the retired army officer and will contain an excellent picture of him.

Ever since the police were notified that Captain Lord had disappeared from his home, 937 New York Avenue, last Friday, under circumstances which caused his friends to fear that he contemplated suicide, they have worked long and faithfully upon the case, but have been unable to get any trace as to the missing man's whereabouts.

Encouraged by the reward of \$100 offered by Col. T. R. Marshall, of the Los Angeles, for information leading to the finding of his missing friend, a number of amateur detectives are said to be scouring the country in hopes of earning the amount.

## FIREMEN NARROWLY ESCAPE.

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## PRESIDENT AS SANTA CLAUS

### Roosevelt Children Make Merry at Home.

#### WHITE HOUSE RINGS WITH JOLLY.

Gorgeous Presents For All of the Family Come From Near and Far—A Trip on the Dolphin Tomorrow.

The White House awoke early this morning. The children vied with each other in an attempt to see which could arise the earliest and be the first to the mantle in the hall where six stockings hung in a row. Just who was first on the scene would be hard to tell, for there was a rush of feet all at once, long before the sun peeped over the Capitol dome.

The shouts of happy children rang through the mansion and awoke the President and Mrs. Roosevelt. They were not far behind the children then in arising.

If the expressed exuberance was any criterion of their feelings, Santa Claus, in the shape of father and mother, numerous relatives and acquaintances, had certainly done himself proud.

The youngsters were so excited over their presents that they could hardly be torn away from the examination of the gifts long enough to eat breakfast. There were enough gifts to stock whole stores.

## Presents the Children Received.

Perhaps nobody was more pleased with his share of the Yuletide loot than Archie, a long cherished dream of Archie's was realized when he beheld a bicycle of just the right size to fit his diminutive figure. Archie at once gave vent to his excitement by a series of war whoops which startled the attendants all over the house. He at once mounted the wheel and rode the length of the long hall and then back again. He even suggested that he be allowed to take the new bicycle down in the East Room and ride it there, and to protests he argued that it was clean and would not spoil the carpet or do any harm at all.

Theodore, Jr., received a fine gun which he will find useful on the trip down the river, during which Dr. Rixey will give him his first lesson in duck shooting. Kermit, the second son, was highly pleased at receiving a silver watch with which he will astonish his schoolmates.

Quentin, the baby of the family, was especially taken with the latest pattern of a hobby horse on which he will take his first lesson in "trotting" and "galloping."

He was also given a drum, which will not be heard, however, until the dolphin is well under way down the river. He also received a large quantity of toys, mechanical and otherwise.

Miss Alice Roosevelt received a magnificent corsage cluster of diamonds, the gift of her father and mother. These jewels she will wear for the first time at the ball in the White House early next month, at which time she will make her debut.

Gifts to the President.

The number and variety of the gifts received by the President seemed almost unlimited. They have been arriving at the White House for several days past, and will probably continue to arrive until New Year Day. Nearly everyone who has ever been at all intimately associated with the President took occasion to send a gift.

During the morning and early afternoon several members of the Cabinet called at the White House and extended the compliments of the season to the President. Each member of the Cabinet had received an appropriate remembrance from the President, and they all had taken occasion to present him with a gift. Secretary Root was among the first to call, as was Senator Lodge.

A Trip Down the River.

Mrs. Roosevelt decided to take the entire family with her down the river on the Dolphin tomorrow.

The whole Roosevelt family, with the exception of Theodore, Jr., dressed for riding, went to Commander Cowles' house for luncheon. Later they took a morning horseback ride. They were accompanied by Senator Lodge.

Quiet at the Mansion.

Out of respect to the President's wishes, there were no callers of an official character at the White House this morning, with the exception of Civil Service Commissioner Procter, who consulted the President regarding the dismissal of MacLay, who was ordered dismissed from the Brooklyn Navy Yard by Secretary Long.

None of the family went to church this morning, but later in the day the President will go driving. He was very anxious to accompany his family down the river, but found it impossible to spare the time, and will remain in Washington during the holidays.

All the members of the Cabinet spent Christmas Day at their homes in this city. The departments were closed, as usual, and few people were seen upon the streets except those attending services in the various churches.

President Roosevelt, in distributing Christmas gifts, did not overlook the little son of the Rev. Dr. John M. Schick, pastor of the President's church. The President sent the little fellow a handsome marine toy.

## SANTA CLAUS BURNED.

### Whiskers Took Fire While He Was Lighting Candles.

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—Frank Wienshinka was severely burned while playing Santa Claus at his home, 3759 Wentworth Avenue, last night. He was removed to the Provident Hospital by the police.

Wienshinka dressed up to resemble Santa Claus and, entering the parlor of his home, started to bedeck the tree with presents. After finishing the work of hanging the presents, he lighted the candles. In doing so his whiskers became ignited. He was seriously burned.

## One Little Christmas Victim.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 25.—Edward Brockert, a small boy, while walking downtown for the purpose of buying a Christmas tree last night, was struck by a Fifth Avenue car and instantly killed. His back was broken and his chest crushed.

## SHAW'S ACCEPTANCE EXPECTED.

### Iowa's Governor Not Likely to Decline Portfolio.

The impression is strengthening that Governor Leslie M. Shaw, of Iowa, will become the next Secretary of the Treasury. He will not come to Washington for two or three days. He was in conference at Dubuque, Iowa, yesterday with Senator Allison and Speaker Henderson, who urged him to accept President Roosevelt's invitation to enter the Cabinet.

Governor Shaw then returned to Des Moines to consult with Mrs. Shaw regarding the matter. It is understood that he has been convinced that acceptance of the Treasury portfolio would be an advisable step, but he wishes to allow his wife to have a word in the matter. Mrs. Shaw is socially ambitious, and it is expected will approve what is supposed to be Governor Shaw's desire to accept.

Governor Shaw has not said as yet whether or not he will accept. To direct questions on this point he has responded that he will not say because the place has not been formally tendered him.

Gossip comes from Iowa that Governor Shaw's accession to the Secretaryship will not meet with approval from the dominant faction of the Republican party in that State. Governor Shaw belongs to what is generally known as the machine in Hawkeye State Republican politics.

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